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ORIGIN AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	EB-01	EUR-01	OIGO-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/054R			

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

DRAFTED BY: AF/C: TPMCCULLEY
APPROVED BY: AF: GEMOOSE
AF/FO: EPBRYNN
AF/C: RJFENDRICK
EUR/NE: EBROCKING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100543

PARIS FOR PERLOW; BRUSSELS FOR DUBROW; LONDON FOR MCKINLEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV PREL PREF PHUM BU RW CG BE FR
SUBJECT: THE BALANCE SHEET IN RWANDA/BURUNDI: A/S MOOSE MEETS THE
BELGIAN AMBASSADOR

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE MOOSE MET ON
APRIL 14 WITH JUAN CASSIERS, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE
UNITED STATES, TO DISCUSS THE ONGOING CRISES IN RWANDA
AND BURUNDI, AND THE AMBIGUITY OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL
SITUATION IN ZAIRE. ZAIRE DESK OFFICER (NOTETAKER), AND

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 15 APR 2016
DATE/CASE ID: 06 MAY 2011 201005065

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BELGIAN DESK OFFICER ALSO ATTENDED. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SEIZED WITH THE RWANDA CRISIS OF LATE, AND MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THE FATE OF UNAMIR, THE STATUS OF EVACUATION OF EXPATRIATES FROM RWANDA, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SPILL-OVER INTO STILL-CALM BURUNDI. ON ZAIRE, A/S MOOSE AND THE AMBASSADOR AGREED ON THE NEED TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT DELIBERATIONS ON THE PRIME MINISTER, AND RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER TRILATERAL MEETING ON THE MARGINS OF THE MAY 27 EUROPEAN UNION CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY.

"WE ARE NOT GOING OUT OF AFRICA..."

3. CASSIERS CONFIRMED THAT THE BELGIANS PLANNED TO END THEIR PARTICIPATION IN UNAMIR, AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
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HOPED FOR A RAPID TERMINATION OF THE MANDATE, OR A SUSPENSION OF THE PEACEKEEPING OPERATION COMBINED WITH MAINTENANCE OF A SMALL POLITICAL PRESENCE. IN EITHER CASE, CASSIERS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A RAPID AND ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL OF UNAMIR FORCES FROM RWANDA. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BELGIAN UNAMIR CONTINGENT WOULD WITHDRAW UNDER UN COMMAND, WITH THE REST OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE, AND THAT BELGIUM DID NOT INTEND TO PULL ITS BLUE HELMETS OUT OF RWANDA UNILATERALLY.

4. HE SPECULATED THAT UNAMIR WOULD LIKELY DEPART RWANDA BY ROAD THROUGH TANZANIA, TO ASSURE THE SAFE REMOVAL OF ITS EQUIPMENT AND GIVEN THE LIKELY INSECURITY OF THE AIRPORT AFTER BELGIAN TROOPS DEPART FRIDAY.

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5. ACCORDING TO CASSIERS, BELGIUM EXPECTS TO WITHDRAW ITS NATIONAL FORCES BY FRIDAY, APRIL 15. ALTHOUGH HE SAID THERE "ARE SOME MISSIONARIES IN THE BUSH WE CANNOT

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RWANDA HAVE BEEN SAFELY EVACUATED. A/S MOOSE EXPRESSED
USG APPRECIATION FOR THE BELGIAN EFFORT ON THURSDAY TO
EXTRACT 12 JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING 7 AMERICANS) FROM A
HOTEL IN CENTRAL KIGALI. (NOTE: THE JOURNALISTS HAD
FLOWN INTO KIGALI AFTER THE AMERICAN EVACUATION, AND THEN
WERE TRAPPED IN A FIREFIGHT BETWEEN THE RPF AND THE
RWANDAN MILITARY. THE BELGIANS MADE TWO UNSUCCESSFUL
SORTIES--WHICH WERE TURNED BACK UNDER HEAVY FIRE--BEFORE
UNAMIR WAS ABLE TO REACH THE HOTEL AND BRING THE
JOURNALISTS TO THE RELATIVE SAFETY OF THE AIRPORT. END
NOTE) CASSIERS IN TURN THANKED THE U.S. FOR THE
LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED DURING THE EVACUATION, AND
FOR ITS SUPPORT ON THE UNAMIR ISSUE AT THE UNSC.

6. BELGIUM BELIEVES THAT THE RPF WILL TAKE OVER KIGALI
"QUITE QUITE SOON," BUT CASSIERS SUGGESTED THAT THERE
MIGHT STILL BE HOPE FOR THE ARUSHA PROCESS, "WITH
MODIFICATIONS." [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HE CONCLUDED BY
ASSERTING THAT "WE ARE NOT GOING OUT OF AFRICA." BELGIUM
INTENDS TO REMAIN ENGAGED ON THE CONTINENT, AND WILL
HELP, ALBEIT "FROM A DISTANCE." CASSIERS SAID THAT IF
BELGIUM CAN BE HELPFUL WITH HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OR IN
EFFORTS AIMED AT POLITICAL RECONCILIATION, IT WILL DO SO.

BURUNDI "ON ICE"

7. CASSIERS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE RWANDAN CRISIS
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WOULD NOT SPILL OVER INTO BURUNDI. ALTHOUGH THE BELGIANS
HAVE NOT ORDERED DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIALS OUT OF
BURUNDI, BRUSSELS HAS SUGGESTED THAT THEIR NATIONALS
CONGREGATE IN BUJUMBURA. ADDITIONALLY, IF FAMILY MEMBERS
ARE NOT IN BURUNDI NOW, BRUSSELS HAS SUGGESTED THEY STAY
OUT FOR THE PRESENT. [REDACTED]

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REMINDE THE RPF OF ARUSHA

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8. A/S MOOSE RESPONDED THAT THE BELGIAN ASSESSMENT OF THE CRISIS COINCIDED IN LARGE MEASURE WITH OUR OWN. HE NOTED THAT THE WASHINGTON AND BRUSSELS HAD CONSULTED CLOSELY THROUGHOUT THE EVENTS IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI, AND THAT THIS HAD PROVEN USEFUL. THE U.S., ACCORDING TO MOOSE, WOULD LIKE THE UN TO CONTINUE A POLITICAL ROLE IN RWANDA, IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE A SETTLEMENT, BUT HE AGREED THAT IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE DUST TO SETTLE.

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THE CENTER HOLDS IN BURUNDI

9. MOOSE OUTLINED FOR THE BELGIAN THE U.S. MILITARY MISSION IN BURUNDI IN SUPPORT OF THE EVACUATION FROM RWANDA, AND THE STEPS WE HAD TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD AMERICANS IN BURUNDI. HE SAID THAT WE HAD WEIGHED HEAVILY THE MILITARY OPTION, AND HAD ONLY DEPLOYED THE MARINES AFTER SEEKING ASSURANCES FROM THE BURUNDIAN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY. THE OPERATION HAD GONE WELL, AND MOOSE SUGGESTED THAT IT HAD GIVEN CONFIDENCE TO BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN BUJUMBURA. THE U.S. REMAINED CONCERNED ABOUT THE DESTABILIZING EFFECT OF A POTENTIAL INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM RWANDA (ESPECIALLY RWANDAN POLITICIANS FLEEING THE BLOODSHED IN KIGALI), AND NOTED THAT WITH THE U.S. ORDERED DEPARTURE WE HAD GONE BEYOND BELGIUM'S PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

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THAT THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS MUST BE OUR PRINCIPAL CONCERN.

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ZAIRE: "THE RULES OF THE GAME..."

10. CASSIERS ASKED MOOSE FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY REPLIED THAT
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RECENT EVENTS IN KINSHASA, INCLUDING THE PROMULGATION OF A TRANSITION CONSTITUTION AND A RENEWED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON THE INTERIM PRIME MINISTER, HAD CREATED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF AMBIGUITY. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS A "TOUGH CALL" AS TO WHETHER THE OPPOSITION COULD GET ITS ACT TOGETHER, AND AS ALWAYS, THE ROLE OF TSHISEKEDI WOULD BE CRUCIAL. THE BELGIAN SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT "WOULD NOT GO FURTHER THAN MONSENGWO." THE BELGIAN POSITION IS THAT WITH THE PROMULGATION OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE "GAME IS THERE," AND THE POLITICAL CLASS MUST PLAY BY THE RULES.

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11. MOOSE SUGGESTED THAT MOBUTU CONTINUES TO TRY TO MANIPULATE THE PROCESS IN ZAIRE. CASSIERS AGREED, AND SAID THAT BELGIUM ENTERTAINED NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT MOBUTU'S COMMITMENT TO THE TRANSITION. THE ZAIRIAN LEADER CONTINUED TO OPERATE BY THE OLD RULES, THAT HE MADE COMPROMISES IF IT SUITED HIM, AND UNDOID THEM IF HE PERCEIVED IT TO BE IN HIS INTEREST TO DO SO.

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THE TWO
REVIEWED THE MECHANISM UNDERWAY IN KINSHASA FOR THE SELECTION OF THE TRANSITION PRIME MINISTER, AND MOVED ON
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TO A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS FOR THE THREE.

12. BELGIUM, ACCORDING TO CASSIERS, WILL NOT PRE-JUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE DELIBERATIONS ON THE PRIME MINISTER. THE BELGIANS ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT "WHOEVER COMES OUT,"

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PROVIDED THE DECISION IS TAKEN DEMOCRATICALLY. MOOSE
RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE NEXT TRILATERAL MEETINGS. HE
SAID THAT HE WOULD BE ON THE ROAD A GREAT DEAL IN THE
COMING WEEKS, INCLUDING A VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA DURING
THE ELECTIONS. THE EUROPEAN UNION CONSULTATIONS
SCHEDULED FOR MAY 27 IN BRUSSELS MIGHT OFFER AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR BILATERAL OR TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON
ZAIRE, RWANDA AND BURUNDI.

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13. BUJUMBURA, MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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